

# California Arts Council

## Mid-Year Activity Report

2006-07



## Programs

The CAC offers the following programs supported with increased revenues from sales of the Arts License Plate, funding received from the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from Angel City Press through sales of the book, *My California: Journeys by Great Writers*.

**Artists in Schools** – Supporting arts organizations that partner with schools/school districts to facilitate artist-in-residence activities in schools, in both classroom and after-school settings.

**Creating Public Value** – Supporting arts organizations in rural or underserved areas that propose projects making a positive contribution through the arts to California's citizens and communities.

**Statewide Service Networks** – Supporting discipline- or ethnicity-based statewide arts service organizations that build the functional, non-arts skills of their network members to help them thrive and be as effective as possible.

**State Local Partnership** – Supporting countywide generalist arts organizations that are designated by their Boards of Supervisors as state partners. The organizations conduct countywide assets and needs assessments, provide support to arts education and local groups, and facilitate communication between artists, arts groups and others within their counties.

**High School Writing Program** - The CAC is developing a high school writing program, funded by revenue from the book, *My California: Journeys by Great Writers*, a private, independent project of benefactor, Angel City Press and other organizations and individuals. More TBA.

## Initiatives for State Arts Agencies from the National Endowment for the Arts

The California Arts Council was successful in acquiring competitive federal funds for two special NEA initiatives:

**Poetry Out Loud** – The CAC is expanding this poetry recitation contest for high school students to ten counties after last year's successful capital area program.

**American Masterpieces – California** - This touring and performing arts presentation project will highlight and celebrate masterpieces specific to our

state. Two tours are being promoted this year for 2007-08 presentation: *American Tap Masterpieces-- The Hollywood Journey: Tap Dance, Music and Film* with Jazz Tap Ensemble; and *Música Festiva de las Misiones* with Coro Hispano de San Francisco. Each project has distinct residency opportunities, statewide marketing and a public awareness component.

## California Poet Laureate

The California Arts Council, with the California Center for the Book, Angel City Press, Living History Foundation, and the California State Library, has produced a volume of recent work by California Poet Laureate Al Young, the only book of

his work now in print. In collaboration with the CAC and California Center for the Book, Al Young will tour the state in April 2007 to offer readings, signings and residencies at 11+ cities in California from the Oregon border to San Diego County.

## Public Awareness Efforts and Relationship Building

The California Arts Council's efforts to promote public awareness of the arts and the California Arts Council to those individuals and groups not usually associated with the arts community continues with a number of activities and events.

✧ **Cultural Cabinet** – Initiated by the Directors of the CAC, California State Library and the Department of Parks, an informal “Cultural Cabinet” was formed in 2005. The Cultural Cabinet continues to bring together on a quarterly basis the aforementioned plus the State Historic Preservation Officer and Directors of the State Archives, California Council for the Humanities, California Travel & Tourism Commission, and California Museum of History, Women and the Arts.

✧ **Cultural Tourism** – The CAC supports cultural tourism, which highlights the value of the Arts for sustainable tourism and economic activity statewide. A member of the California Cultural Heritage Tourism Council, the CAC has also supported the activities of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the newest and largest state conservancy, and the only one to include a cultural preservation component. The CAC has presented or will present information at the Sierra Business Council conference, California Cultural Heritage Tourism Council statewide and regional meetings, California Festival and Events Association Conference, and to the California Welcome Centers' managers.

✧ **General Public Awareness with Affinity Groups** – The CAC will present information at the California Association of Museums Conference; the *LA Times* Festival of the Book, the largest consumer book festival in the world; the California PTA Annual Conference; and other gatherings.

✧ **Governor and First Lady's Conference** – September 27 – The CAC attended and staffed a booth visited by hundreds of the 11,000 attendees. The agency promoted the value of the Arts, arts education, the Arts License Plate, California Arts Day (October 5) and National Arts and Humanities Month (October).

✧ **Arts Fest at the State Fair** – August 18 – Muriel Johnson spoke at the State Fair event honoring Wayne Thiebaud, designer of the Arts License Plate, and announced the upcoming California Arts Day.

✧ **Various Presentations, such as UC Davis Panel with author/educator Jonathan Kozol** – October 12 - UC Davis presented a panel on arts education issues with author/educator Jonathan Kozol; CAC Director Muriel Johnson was one of four panel members.

## Special Events

A sampling includes:

✧ **Statewide Arts Conference** – For the first time in four years, the CAC is convening artists, arts groups, funders, authorizers and the general public for a statewide conference in January 2007 with the theme, *Reflecting – Reframing – Responding*. Speakers include Dana Gioia, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, artist and Council member Annette Bening, John McGuirk of the Irvine Foundation and Moy Eng of the Hewlett Foundation among others.

✧ **California Arts Day – October 6** - At the official Sacramento kick-off to the sixth annual California Arts Day celebration, the CAC participated in the network of regional theaters' Free Ticket Day event on the Capitol West Steps. Annually on every first Friday of October throughout the state, artists and arts groups offer events, exhibits and special activities for all ages to celebrate the value of the Arts for all citizens and all communities.

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More information on the CAC website: [www.cac.ca.gov](http://www.cac.ca.gov)